## An archaeological evaluation at East Hill House, Colchester, Essex April-June 2009



## report prepared by Chris Lister

# on behalf of Scott Properties

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## Contents

1	Summary	1
2	Introduction	1
3	Archaeological background	1
4	Aim	2
5	Results	2
6	Finds	
6.1	The Roman pottery by Stephen Benfield	5
6.2	The post-Roman pottery	
	by Howard Brooks	8
6.3	The small finds and clay tobacco pipe	
	by Nina Crummy	9
6.4	The faunal remains by Adam Wightman	9
6.5	The Roman brick and tile	
	by Chris Lister	10
6.6	Miscellaneous finds by Chris Lister	12
7	Discussion	13
8	Archive deposition	14
9	Acknowledgements	14
10	References	15
11	Glossary	16
12	Context list	16
Арр	endix 1: catalogue of the faunal remains	19
Figu	Ires	after p 19

EHER summary sheet

## List of plates and figures

- Plate 1: T3, view north.
- Plate 2: the tile and opus signinum wall foundation, view east.

front cover

3

- Fig 1 Insulas 31/32 and Insulas 39/40, showing the location of the 2009 trial-trenches in the archaeological context of the area.

- Fig 2 T1: results. Fig 3 T2: results. Fig 4 T3: results. Fig 5 T1: sections. Fig 6 T2 and T3, F7: sections.

## 1 Summary

The site lies in Insula 31/32 of the Roman town. Prior to the refurbishment of East Hill House as a hotel and the construction of retail and residential units to the west of this, three trial-trenches were excavated - two by machine and one by hand - inside East Hill House and in its grounds. The trenches revealed parts of two Roman buildings, presumably town-houses, one of which had a hypocaust and the other at least one area of tessellated pavement.

### 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

2.1 This is the archive report on an archaeological evaluation East Hill House, 78 High Street, Colchester, Essex carried out on behalf of Scott Properties by the Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) between April 16th and June 15th 2009.

The site is a mid 18th-century grade 1 listed building set within landscaped grounds (Fig 1). The majority of the site is located within a scheduled ancient monument area, which comprises the south-east corner of the Roman town (Essex Scheduled Ancient Monument no 173). The coach-house on the west side of the area in question is not a listed building. The site is centred at NGR TM 00852 25227.

- 2.2 The evaluation was carried out in response to a planning application submitted to Colchester Borough Council (CBC) by Scott Properties to refurbish the house and add some minor structures. The application also included a new mixed development of residential and retail units at the west end of the site. Three trial-trenches (Trench 1-3 or T1-T3) were excavated. Two Roman buildings were identified, one being of two phases; these have been numbered Buildings 218 and 219 in the Colchester Buildings series.
- **2.3** All archaeological work was done in accordance with a brief written by the CBC Archaeological Officer (CBCAO; Martin Winter), the written scheme of investigation (WSI) written by CAT and agreed with the CBCAO. Full details of methodology and local and national guidance papers followed can be found in the WSI.
- 2.4 This report mirrors standards and practices contained in the Colchester Borough Council's *Guidelines on standards and practices for archaeological fieldwork in the Borough of Colchester* (CIMS 2008a) and *Guidelines on the preparation and transfer of archaeological archives to Colchester and Ipswich Museums* (CIMS 2008b), and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for an archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008a) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008b). Other sources used are *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

### 3 Archaeological background (Fig 1)

3.1 The site has long been considered to contain deposits relating to the urban character of the Roman town. It lies within the walled area of the historic Roman and later town of Colchester, which has been subject to archaeological excavation and chance discovery for many years (Hull 1958; Colchester Archaeological Reports 1-12). A combination of chance finds of tessellated pavements, both decorated and plain (eg Urban Archaeological Database or UAD no 321), together with archaeological investigations in advance of the construction of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre to the east (UAD no 3033; CAR 6, 375-8) and the bus station to the west (UAD nos 3069 and 3070; CAT Report 234), have revealed fragmentary evidence suggesting an essentially residential area of the Roman town. This appears to comprise a number of houses of probable 2nd-century AD date, some probably large and well-appointed with hypocaust underfloor heating, painted wall-plaster and mosaic floors. The land, known from the later medieval period as the 'Berryfield', has probably remained open from the end of the Roman period until the present day. The line of at least one principal east-west Roman street is known; this has been observed on the site of the department store building fronting Queen Street to the west (UAD no 307) and crossing the site of the northern wing of the Mulberry Tree Family Centre to the east

(UAD no 3033), the projected line of which would cross the southern half of the D-shaped sunken garden of East Hill House. No orthogonal north-south streets have yet been located by excavation within the vicinity.

- 3.2 Archaeological work took place between 2003 and 2008 for the new Visual Arts Facility (VAF) and the replacement bus station in the grounds of East Hill House and on part of the site of the former bus station (test-pitting and a combination of machine-dug and hand-dug trenches). This work revealed parts of several Roman buildings, presumably town-houses, and the metalled street on the southern side of Insula 31/32 (CAT Reports 234, 295, 305, 385; CAT Report 477 forthcoming). A watching brief undertaken in the grounds of East Hill House in 1983-4 recorded evidence of metalling, burials, mortar floors and a tessellated pavements (*CAR* 6, 375-8).
- **3.3** Previous finds from the immediate area in question include a Roman tessellated pavement located in 1951 at a depth of five feet just south of the coach-house (UAD no 270; *CAR* **6**, 375-8).

#### 4 Aim

The aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, extent, date, significance and condition of any archaeological remains and deposits likely to be affected by the development.

### 5 **Results** (Figs 2-6)

#### Trench 1: contexts and dating (Figs 2, 5)

Context	Description	Associated finds	Context date
F1	Large deep pit (not fully	Peg-tile, animal bone, Roman	post-
	excavated)	CBM, pottery	medieval
F2	<i>Opus signinum</i> floor	-	Roman
F3	Robber trench	Pottery, animal bone and Roman	probably
		CBM	medieval
F5	Wall foundation remains	Animal bone and Roman pottery	Roman
F6	Opus signinum foundation	-	Roman
	(not excavated)		
F8	Robber trench (not	-	probably
	excavated)		medieval
L1	Topsoil	Peg-tile, pottery, animal bone, clay	19th-20th
		tobacco-pipe, pot counters?	centuries
L2	Builder's dump layer	Peg-tile, slate and post-medieval	early 18th
		brick (not retained)	century
L3	Accumulation	Post-medieval and Roman CBM,	post-
		slate and pottery	medieval
L4	Demolition debris	Pottery, bone, Roman tile and	Roman
		painted wall-plaster	
L6	Demolition debris	Mortar and wall-plaster fragments	Roman
L7	Occupation surface (not excavated)	Charcoal flecking	Roman

#### **Trench 1 interpretation**

T1 was cut through the concrete floor of the south-west room in the 20th-century extension to East Hill House, underneath which was modern topsoil (L1) sealing a post-medieval (early 18th-century or later) dump layer of lime mortar with peg-tile and brick fragments (L2). This was approximately 200mm thick, very hard, and extended over most of the trench. Beneath this was a 50-100mm thick layer of accumulated soil (L3), containing both Roman and post-Roman brick and tile. L3 appeared to seal a large deep pit with steep sides (F1), located in the south-western corner of the trench, but it is possible that the pit itself cut L3. F1 contained abundant Roman building material (including *opus signinum* and painted wall-plaster), but the

presence of clay tobacco-pipe and peg-tile suggests a post-medieval date. This feature was not fully excavated as depth and access became problematic.

Sealed by L3 and apparently extending over the whole trench was what appeared to be a layer of demolition debris (L4) containing large quantities of Roman brick and tile, mortar fragments, wall-plaster and pottery. This was investigated to confirm that it was a Roman layer. L4 survived from a depth of 250mm at the southern edge of the trench, where it was cut by F1, to twice that at the northern edge, and sealed a hard *opus signinum* surface (F2). The latter extended approximately 800mm from the western edge of the trench to a point in the centre forming a roughly north-south aligned edge with a linear feature of very similar make-up to that of L4 on the eastern side. When sectioned in the northern part of the trench, it became clear that this linear feature was a robber trench (F3) which cut L4. This trench was interpreted as medieval and was excavated, which provided an opportunity to ascertain the thickness of F2 and see what lay below the robber trench.

F2 was approximately 160-180mm thick and formed of crushed red tile and mortar. The remains of five definite and one probable sub-square pads of pink *opus signinum* adhering to the surface of F2, four of which formed a regular square with equal distances of 380mm from centre to centre. This pattern appeared to be replicated directly to the south of this group, although pit F1 had removed any evidence for this. It is highly likely that the *opus signinum* pads are the remains of *pilae* sitting on a hypocaust sub-floor, and, indeed, the north-east pad contained the impression of a Roman brick, the dimension of which matches the average width of a *pes bessalis*, the brick used in hypocaust *pilae* (Brodribb 1987, 34-7).

The excavation of F2 and F3 suggested a probable contemporary relationship between the hypocaust sub-floor and the robbed-out wall foundation. To prove this theory, the trench was extended to the north and east by 200mm in each direction (the maximum distance available due to the trench constraints). This produced very interesting results. A second robber trench (F8) was revealed along the northern edge of the trench, extending roughly east-west and at a right-angle to F3. The robber trench F8 formed a good edge with F2. The north section showed a distinct difference between the fills of F3 and F8, with the latter having a greater concentration of mortar fragments. In appearance, it seemed that F3 cut F8. If this is so, then it suggests two different phases of robbing, which is possible but seems unlikely due to the proximity of the two wall foundations.

The extension to the east revealed two tile courses extending 600mm from the northern edge of the trench, which were set into an *opus signinum* foundation (F5) which was parallel to the alignments of both F2 and F3. A 300mm-tall solid lump of *opus signinum* was seen in section sitting directly on top of the upper tile course. A pad of *opus signinum* adhering to the surface of the most southerly of the two tiles forming the upper tile course. Visible on the *opus signinum* 'lump' was a narrow linear slot on an identical alignment to the foundation, with faint traces of perpendicular slots indicating a rectangular shape. The 'lump' was probably the remains of mortar bedding for upright box flue-tiles.



## Plate 2: the tile and *opus signinum* wall foundation, view east.

A second *opus signinum* foundation (F6) formed a right-angled return with F5 and extended beneath sub-floor F2. This was confirmed by close examination of the side of F1, where F6 was clearly present. These *opus signinum* foundations indicate two rooms. To the north and south of F6 (and bounded by F5 to the east) was a thin compacted layer of mortar and wall-plaster fragments (L6). Where this had been penetrated by the removal of F3 in the northern room, a dark greenish brown silty clay layer with charcoal flecking was visible. L7 resembled an occupation layer on a floor surface.

Context	Description	Associated finds	Context date
F4	Brick surface and	-	Victorian/modern
	associated services		
F7	Pit	Pottery	post-medieval
L5	Imported topsoil	-	modern
L8	Crush	-	Victorian/modern
L9	Demolition debris	Roman CBM,	Roman
		pottery	
L10	Redeposited natural	-	Roman
L11	Clay floor/clay wall	-	Roman
	(demolition material?)		

#### Trench 2: contexts and dating (Figs 3, 6)

#### **Trench 2 interpretation**

This trench was relocated by agreement with CBC after difficulties over access precluded the placing of the trench in the access road for the former bus station. T2 was instead dug through a raised area of weeds and bushes to the east of the access road. 750mm of dark topsoil (L5) was machined directly off a brick surface (F4). The homogeneous nature of this topsoil suggests that it was imported for landscaping purposes at the time of the construction of the former bus station. F4 comprised two separate brick surfaces divided by a concrete channel. The surface to the north of this channel was constructed from unfrogged rectangular yellow bricks, 220mm long x 70mm wide, laid end-on-end in a stretcher pattern. A square concrete drain was situated on the south edge of this. South of the channel, the bricks were blue-black two-block stable bricks, 220mm long x 110mm wide, also laid in a stretcher pattern. A square hole had been cut into this second surface. The concrete channel had a gully set into it leading to the drain. The remains of orange brick, which could be seen on the west edge of the channel, suggest that a wall once separated the two surfaces with a drainage gully at its base.

Below F4 was a layer of crushed modern brick and mortar fragments forming a bed for the brick surfaces. Within this layer was a network of connected ceramic pipes taking water away from the drain. One leg of this service cut a large pit (F7) with straight sides, containing post-medieval pottery. The south end of this pit cut a layer of what appeared to be Roman demolition debris (L9), which extended over the southern half of the trench. It is possible that this layer continued further north beyond the trench limits, but the service pipes associated with F4 prevented the observation of any continuation. On the western side of the trench was a 210mm-thick layer with mortar fragments and septaria chippings in dirty yellowish brown sandy silt (L9), dipping towards the east. Below L9 was dirty silty sand with no inclusions apart from charcoal flecks. Deeper excavation was not possible.

The disturbance around the northern part of F7 was removed, revealing clean sandy clay, which did not resemble natural sands and gravel. It is possible that this was the remains of a clay floor or a demolished clay wall, although, at 500mm thick, this would be a substantial feature. Further investigation of this layer was not possible due to the depth of the excavations.

Context	Description	Associated finds	Context date
F9	Pit	Pottery, post-medieval brick	19th-20th
			centuries
F10	Pit	-	
F11	Tessellated	-	Roman
	pavement		
F12	Robber trench	-	medieval
L1	Topsoil	-	19th-20th
	-		centuries
L3	Accumulation	-	post-
			medieval
L4	Demolition debris	Roman CBM, pottery, opus signinum,	Roman
		painted wall-plaster, tesserae, animal bone	
L5	Imported topsoil	-	modern
L8	Crush	-	modern

#### Trench 3: contexts and dating (Figs 4, 6)

#### **Trench 3 interpretation**

In T3, a 300mm-thick layer of imported topsoil (L1) sealed a spread of crushed brick and coarse orange sand and gravel (L8) at the northern end of the trench. This was probably associated with the large area of disturbance there which was itself associated with the construction of the storage building to the north and west in the 1980s. Beneath L8 was 450mm of the topsoil (L1), associated with the gardens and grounds of East Hill House. L1 sealed a 450mm- thick layer of accumulated soil (L3), containing Roman brick and tile, which in turn sealed two pits (F9, F10) and a layer of demolition debris (L4) containing abundant mortar fragments, septaria chips, painted wall-plaster, pottery, Roman CBM, opus signinum and animal bone. Directly below this was a red tessellated pavement (F11). Pit F9 was approximately 1.8m long in section and contained an abundant quantity of loosely-packed post-medieval brick and peg-tile. F9 cut L4 and the tessellated pavement to an unascertained depth. Pit F10 also cut the pavement but was significantly smaller than F9. The fill of F10 was a dark brown silty loam which appeared to be post-medieval and cut through both the demolition debris L4 and tessellated pavement F11. Consequently F10 was not excavated.

The tessellated pavement F11 was of tile cubes (*tesserae*) bedded in a layer of *opus signinum*. The *tesserae* were laid in rows which were roughly east-west in alignment and appeared to have an edge to the southern end of the trench. Approximately half of the surviving part of F11 had been removed by a large erosion hollow which exposed the underlying *opus signinum*. This does not appear to have been the result of an intrusive event, nor was there visible evidence of any repair or patching. The *tesserae* and the *opus signinum* on which they were bedded had a straight edge which was aligned with the rows of *tesserae*. This suggests the presence of a wall foundation or robber trench adjoining the pavement. South of F11 was what appeared to be a continuation of the demolition debris L4. Closer examination of this in the area adjacent to the tessellated pavement revealed a possible heavier concentration of septaria and mortar aligned east-west (F12). Due to the depth of the excavation at this point, it was not possible to confirm F12 as a robber trench, but it seems likely. Further excavation would be required to determine whether or not this was the case.

#### 6 Finds

#### 6.1 The Roman pottery

by Stephen Benfield

#### Pottery fabrics and recording

A small quantity of Roman pottery, ie 56 sherds weighing 1,279g, was recovered during the evaluation. This has been recorded using the Roman pottery fabric type

series devised for *CAR* **10** in which the fabrics are recorded as two-letter codes. These letter codes, together with the full fabric name, are set out in Table 1. The number of sherds recorded for each fabric type is also given in Table 1. Where appropriate, the fabric code for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection has been included (Tomber & Dore 1998). The pot forms have been recorded, when possible, using the Camulodunum (Cam) pottery form type series (Hawkes & Hull 1947; Hull 1958). Samian vessels are recorded using Dragendorff (Dr) form numbers, or other common form-type references following those used in Webster 1996. Dating of the pottery broadly follows the dating of pottery fabric and forms in *CAR* **10**. For each context, the number of sherds, the total weight of pottery and the identifiable pottery forms were recorded for each finds number by fabric type (see catalogue below). A catalogue of the Roman pottery, listed by finds number for each feature and layer, and with an overall date for each finds number, is provided below.

Given that the quantity of pottery recovered is small, its main benefit would be in helping to provide a dating framework for the contexts (features and layers). However, as most is residual in post-Roman or probable post-Roman contexts, there is little call for any discussion beyond the provision of the dated catalogue (below). It can be noted that, of the closely-datable pottery, almost all dates from after the early-mid 2nd century, with only one sherd, part of a Cam 243-244/246 bowl (F3, finds no 11), dating to the 1st or early 2nd century. The shell-tempered sherds are, or are probably, late Roman, dating to the period of the early-mid 4th to late 4th century (*CAR* **10**, 458), although otherwise there is no other pottery that can be certainly dated as 4th century. Also of some note are three joining sherds (L4, finds no 9) from a imported vessel, probably a flagon or jug, of Rhineland *marmorierte* marbled ware (Fabric EE(SJ)). The vessel is decorated with a white painted design. This is the most common of the Roman marbled ware fabrics that are recovered from Colchester (*CAR* **10**, 251).

Fabric code	Fabric name	National Roman Fabric Reference Collection fabric code	sherds
AJ	amphoras, Dressel 20	BAT AM 1, BAT AM 2	1
BA	plain samian forms		
CG	Central Gaulish plain samian (Lezoux)	LEZ SA 2	4
DJ	coarse oxidised and related wares	COL WH	4
EA	Nene Valley colour-coated ware	LNV CC	2
EE	marbled wares		
SJ	Rhineland marmorierte ware	LOR MA	3
GA	BB1: black-burnished ware, category 1	DOR BB1	1
GB	BB2: black-burnished ware, category 2	COL BB2	6
GX	other coarse wares, principally locally-produced grey wares		26
HD	shell-tempered and calcite-gritted wares		2
KX	black-burnished ware (BB2) types in pale grey ware		1
MQ	white slipped fine wares and parchment wares		1
ΤΖ	mortaria, Colchester and mortaria imported from the Continent		4
WB	grey slipped wares		1

#### Table 1: Roman pottery fabrics.

#### Catalogue of Roman pottery

**F1** *Finds number 5*, upper fill, weight 58g Fabric HD, 1 sherd, base, probably from a jar. Pottery dated: probably late Roman to mid or late 4th century *Finds number 7*, mid fill, weight 173g Fabric DJ, 2 sherds; Fabric GX, 8 sherds. Comments: 4 pots represented Pottery dated: Roman

*Finds number 8*, lower fill, weight 10g Fabric DJ, 2 sherds. Pottery dated: 1st-2nd/3rd century

#### F3

Finds number 10, weight 410g

Fabric BA(CG), 3 sherds, Dr 45 mortarium (2 sherds), dated late 2nd century - after *c* AD 170, Dr 31 bowl, dated later 2nd century; Fabric TZ, mortarium, 3 joining sherds, upright rim with hooked flange and broad body fluting, cream fabric with predominantly flint grits but other material too, not sourced to a production centre. Comments: medium to large sherds

Pottery dated: at least late 2nd century, probably later 3rd or 4th century

#### Finds number 11, weight 111g

Fabric GB, 2 sherds (not joining) from a Cam 37B bowl, dated late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 3 sherds, Cam 243-244/246 bowl rim, dated 1st-early 2nd century, Cam 268 jar rim dated early/mid 2nd to late 3rd/early 4th century; Fabric HD, 1 body sherd from a jar.

Pottery dated: at least late 2nd, probably mid or late 4th century

#### F5

*Finds number 15*, weight 15g Fabric EA, 2 sherds, beaker with flattened bead rim and barbotine decoration, probably Cam 394 dated 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd. Pottery dated: early-mid 3rd to late 3rd century

#### F7

*Finds number 16*, weight 15g Fabric GX, 1 sherd; Fabric WB, 1 rim sherd, probably from a bowl, abraded. Pottery dated: Roman

#### L1

*Finds number 1*, weight 55g Fabric GX, 1 sherd; Fabric KX, 1 sherd, Cam 37A/38A bowl dated early 2nd-early 3rd century; Fabric TZ, 1 sherd, abraded. Pottery dated: Roman, ?2nd-3rd century

*Finds number 2*, weight 12g Fabric GX, 1 sherd, jar base. Pottery dated: Roman

#### L4

Finds number 9, weight 218g

Fabric AJ, 1 sherd, Spanish amphora fabric, Dressel 20 or possibly Dressel 23; Fabric BA(CG), 1 sherd, Dr 45 mortarium, dated late 2nd century-after *c* AD 170, possibly the same vessel as **F3** (finds no 10); Fabric EE(SJ), 3 joining sherds from a carinated or shouldered vessel, most probably a flagon or jug (Tyers 1996, 150-51) with white painted decoration above the shoulder, dated early/mid 3rd to 4th century (Tyers 1996, 151); Fabric GA, 1 sherd, Cam 279C jar, dated early-mid 3d to late 4th century; Fabric GB, 1 sherd, Cam 37B bowl, dated late 2nd to mid-late 3rd century; Fabric GX, 1 sherd. Pottery dated: early/mid 3rd-4th century

#### Finds number 19, weight 185g

Fabric GB, 3 sherds from a Cam 278 jar decorated with burnished lattice, this vessel dated early-mid 2nd to early 3rd century; Fabric GX, 9 sherds, 1 rim, possibly from a Cam 299 bowl dated early Antonine-4th century; Fabric MQ, 1 sherd, from a closed vessel, red sandy fabric with cream slipped surface and brown painted lines. Pottery dated: mid 2nd-3rd/4th century

#### L9

*Finds number 17*, weight 17g Fabric GX, 1 sherd, carinated body sherd, possibly from a bowl with a line of stab decoration above the carination. Pottery dated: Roman

#### 6.2 The post-Roman pottery

by Howard Brooks

#### Introduction

This is the report on a group of 19 sherds (weighing 396g) of post-Roman pottery from the evaluation.

#### **Description of pottery**

Fabrics present are as follows (after *CAR* **7**): Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware); Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware); Fabric 40 (post-medieval red earthenware or PMRE); Fabric 48d (modern ironstone); and Fabric 51b (flowerpot).

#### Comment

This is a very small group. The dominant fabric (Fabric 51b: flowerpot) no doubt derives from the gardens at East Hill House.

The archaeological work connected with the construction of the Visual Arts Facility in the grounds of East Hill House and on the site of the former bus station, to the south and east of the current site, produced a relatively small group of pottery (253 sherds, 414g), but which included a range of medieval and medieval transitional fabrics (23% of that group: CAT Report 477 forthcoming). The present group contains less medieval material; this may or may not be significant. Perhaps building work associated with East Hill House over the years has removed some of the medieval strata.

#### Catalogue

L1 (upper) Finds no 1 Fabric 51b (flowerpot), 11 sherds, 99g (plus 3 residual Roman sherds) date: 19th-20th centuries

#### L1 (lower)

*Finds no 2* Fabric 40 (PMRE), 3 sherds, 51g Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), 4 sherds, 38g Fabric 51b (flowerpot), 4 sherds, 170g. (plus 1 residual Roman sherd) **date: 19th-20th centuries** 

#### L4

Finds no 19 Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware), 1 sherd, 5g (plus 1 residual Roman sherd) date: 15th-16th centuries

### F1

*Finds no 7* Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 1 sherd, 13g Fabric 40 (PMRE), 1 sherds, 8g (plus 1 residual Roman sherd) **date: 17th-18th centuries** 

#### F1 (lower)

*Finds no 8* Fabric 20 (medieval sandy grey ware), 1 sherd, 13g (plus 1 residual Roman sherd) **date: 13th century** 

#### F7

*Finds no 16* Fabric 21a (Colchester-type ware), green external glaze, 1 sherd, 4g Unrecognised post-medieval grey fabric, internal pale brown slip, external green glaze. Not dissimilar to an early German stoneware Fabric 45), 1 sherd, 4g **date: post-medieval** 

#### F9 Finds no 18 Fabric 48d (modern ironstone), 1 sherd, 69g date: 19th-20th centuries

#### 6.3 The small finds and clay tobacco pipe

by Nina Crummy

The assemblage consists only of one iron object, one iron and wood object, two ceramic counters and possibly a third, and some post-medieval tobacco-pipe fragments. The latter are all plain stem fragments and all came from topsoil. They cannot be closely dated, and the wide range of bore diameters points to an assemblage of mixed date. One of the iron objects is a featureless fragment of sheet, the other is probably a knife tang with a small part of the blade and a wooden handle. The wood is soft and largely mineral-replaced, pointing to a prolonged burial period. The counters are all of Roman date. One is made from a tile fragment and one from a grey ware sherd; only a fragment survives of the latter, which is well worn. Both counters are quite large and may have been used as pot lids rather than for gaming. A red ware base may be another counter, but the condition of both the broken and unbroken surfaces is more consistent with general abrasion than use-wear.

#### Small finds

SF 5. (14) F1. Middle fill of pit. Tapering composite object of iron and mineral-replaced wood, probably a knife tang with a wooden handle. The upper end is broad and covered with wood which has a smooth outline and rounded terminal; the lower is narrow and consists only of iron. Length 94 mm, width of ?handle end 39 mm.

SF 4. (13) F3. Lower fill of robber trench. Fragment of thin iron sheet with one surviving original edge. 51 by 44 mm.

SF 3. (12) F3. Lower fill of robber trench. Counter made from a reused fragment of a flat tile. The edge is roughly trimmed to shape. Diameter 59 mm, 16 mm thick.

SF 1. (3) L1. Lower topsoil. Fragment of a counter made from a reused grey ware sherd. The junction of wall and base has been neatly trimmed away. Diameter 70 mm, 10 mm thick.

SF 2. (4) L1. Lower topsoil. Red ware base sherd, possibly reused as a counter as the upper (inner) face is slightly abraded, but it has broken at a marked angle to the base and counters made from reused base sherds are rarely so irregular (cf SF 1 above). Diameter 35 mm, maximum thickness 16 mm, minimum thickness 6 mm.

#### Clay tobacco pipe

(1) L1. Upper topsoil. Three plain stem fragments: 1) Length 45 mm, bore diameter 1.5 mm; 2) Length 43 mm, bore diameter 2.25 mm; 3) Length 40 mm, bore diameter 2.5 mm.

(2) L1. Lower topsoil. Four plain stem fragments: 1) Length 73 mm, bore diameter 2 mm; 2) Length 65 mm, bore diameter 1 mm; 3) Length 43 mm, bore diameter 2.25 mm; 4) Length 43 mm, bore diameter 2 mm.

#### 6.4 The faunal remains

by Adam Wightman

#### Introduction

In total, 44 pieces of animal bone were recovered (662.8g) from six contexts on the site. The bone was hand-collected from Roman, medieval, post-medieval and modern contexts including three layers, a pit, a robber trench and a Roman wall foundation. The level of bone preservation is generally good, and varies from slightly worn to exceptionally well preserved.

#### Methodology

All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. Each bone was inspected to determine if evidence of bone-, horn- or antler-working was present in the assemblage. Evidence of butchering and any indications of skinning, horn-working and other modifications were recorded. When possible, a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were taken and recorded for each context. All information was input directly into a Microsoft Works spreadsheet for analysis. Measurements were not taken for the bones as there would have been too little data for any meaningful interpretation. Bones of sheep and goat were recorded as *ovis* based on the greater frequency of this species in Britain, but horn-cores, metapodials and deciduous fourth premolars (DPM4) of sheep or goat were derived was noted. The zones of the bone which the bones were derived was noted. The zones of the bone which were represented by the fragment (Z1-Z8 in Appendix 1) and the zone on which butchery marks occurred were recorded using the methodology devised by D Serjeantson (Serjeantson 1996). The freshness of the bone when it was broken was also recorded, based on an assessment of the fractures on the bone.

The analysis was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). A catalogue of the assemblage is included as a table with this report (Appendix 1, p 18).

#### Results

The degree of variation in the preservation of the bone from L1 and L3 is considerable and is attributable to the disturbance of these layers during modern times. In particular, one bone from the post-medieval accumulation layer (L3) is very fresh indeed and is notable when compared to the other bones from this context. *Aves* (bird) bones were found in both layers, including an *anatinae* (dabbling duck, ie Mallard, Teal, Widgeon, etc) femur in the modern topsoil L1. Also of note was a burnt bone in L1 and the metacarpal of a foetal *ovis* (sheep) in L2. There is a notable dominance of *bos* (cattle) bones in demolition debris L4, as is often the case with Roman contexts from Colchester, in particular early ones (*CAR* **12**). A high proportion of the bones are from juvenile *bos*, although the sample is too small to draw conclusions on such patterning. A small *aves* bone was also recovered from L4, suggesting a good level of bone preservation in early contexts in this area.

The bone recovered from the post-medieval pit F1 was mainly from unidentifiable large mammal. Heavier fragmentation of the bone was noted from this context and the breaks on the bone appeared to have been made after the bone had began to dry out, perhaps suggesting that a considerable time elapsed between the bones being discarded and their burial. The bones of *sus* (pig) and *gallus gallus domesticus* (domestic fowl) were also recovered from this context. The medieval robber trench F3 contained a variety of skeletal elements from mammal and avian domesticates including a mammal vertebrae that is exceptionally well preserved and may be intrusive. Just one fragment of medium mammal bone was recovered from the Roman wall foundation F5.

#### **Discussion and conclusions**

This is a small assemblage of bone from a variety of different contexts dating to four different time periods. Due to the size of the assemblages from the contexts comparison between those of each period would not yield reliable patterning. Much of the bone is also from contexts which could contain mixed assemblages due to disturbance and the cutting of earlier deposits (L1, L3, F1, and, to a lesser extent, F3). However, the bone from L4 (the layer of Roman demolition debris) is most likely from an undisturbed context and does, indeed, have characteristics not uncommon in Roman assemblages from Colchester.

Overall, the small assemblage comprises an assortment of different skeletal elements from a variety of species, principally from domesticated species, although the smaller *aves* bone could represent wild species. The mammal bones exhibit cutand chop-marks characteristic of butchery and are predominantly the skeletal elements typical of table waste.

#### 6.5 The Roman brick and tile

#### by Chris Lister

An assemblage of 82 fragments (weighing 18,888g) of Roman building material was recovered from the evaluation. 50% of the assemblage weight comprised Roman

brick (21 fragments) with roofing material, *tegula* and *imbrex* (14 and 12 fragments respectively) making up a further 15.5%. The remainder comprised the largest group of the assemblage, with 32 fragments of box flue-tile forming 32.5% of the overall weight, and one voussoir and two unidentifiable fragments completing the weight.

As is to be expected, the largest quantity of Roman brick and tile (51%) was found in the layers sealing definite Roman features, with the quantity reducing to 32% in the medieval contexts and 17% in the those dated to the post-medieval period. The proportions of the different types of brick and tile in the overall assemblage are mirrored in that of the distribution in the Roman contexts. The eight brick fragments from these contexts comprise 45% of the total weight, with the six *tegula* and six *imbrex* fragments making 16% and 19 box flue-tile fragments the remaining 39%. Roofing tile, ie *tegula* and *imbrex*, is clearly outweighed by the incidence of box fluetile and other brick. It is highly likely that these other brick fragments are from hypocaust *pilae* or the associated bricks that were used to bridge the gaps between the *pilae* and formed the *suspensura* (the suspended hypocaust floor).

The presence and quantity of these types of brick and tile (ie box flue-tile and *pilae* brick) confirm the presence of a hypocaust.

#### Catalogue

L1 (upper) Finds no 1 Tegula, 2 fragments, 44g.

#### L1 (lower)

*Finds no 2 Imbrex*, 1 fragment, 49g. *Tegula*, 1 fragment, with flange, 194g.

#### L3

*Finds no 6* Box flue-tile, 1 fragment, 87g. Box flue-tile, 2 fragments, burnt with chevron keying, *opus signinum* adhering, 439g. Brick, 1 fragment, 130g. Brick, 1 fragment, burnt, 115g. *Tegula*, 1 fragment, with cutaway, 179g.

#### L4 (over F2)

*Finds no 9* Box flue-tile, 1 fragment, with lattice keying, 51g. Brick, 3 fragments, 678g. Brick, 1 fragment, *opus signinum* adhering, 329g. *Imbrex*, 2 fragments, 97g. *Tegula*, 1 fragment, with flange, 96g.

#### L4

*Finds no 19* Box flue-tile, 10 fragments, with keying, 2,274g. Box flue-tile, 5 fragments, with keying, *opus signinum* adhering, 1,102g. Box flue-tile, 2 fragments, with curved cutaway vent, *opus signinum* adhering, 265g. Brick, 1 fragment, 1,309g. *Imbrex*, 2 fragments, 219g. *Imbrex*, 1 fragment, burnt, 352g. *Imbrex*, 1 fragment, cream fabric, 147g. *Tegula*, 3 fragments, 567g.

#### L9

*Finds no 17* Brick, 3 fragments, mortar adhering, 1,982g. *Tegula*, 2 fragments, 65g.

#### F1 (upper)

*Finds no 5* Box flue-tile, 2 fragments, curved cutaway vent, 453g. Box flue-tile, 2 fragments, with keying, 164g. Brick, 1 fragment, 459g. *Imbrex*, 1 fragment, 112g.

#### F1 (middle)

*Finds no 7* Box flue-tile, 1 fragment, curved cutaway vent, *opus signinum* adhering, 104g. Brick, 2 fragments, 367g. *Imbrex*, 1 fragment, 22g. *Tegula*, 1 fragment, 136g. *Tegula*, 1 fragment, with flange, 27g. *Tegula*, 1 fragment, with signature, 101g. Uncertain type, 1 fragment, burnt, 56g.

#### F3 (upper)

*Finds no 10* Box flue-tile, 2 fragments, with keying, *opus signinum* adhering, 539g. Brick, 2 fragments, 789g. Brick, 1 fragment, burnt, *opus signinum* adhering, 153g. *Imbrex*, 3 fragments, 366g. *Tegula*, 1 fragment, burnt, signature, 153g. Uncertain type, 1 fragment, *opus signinum* adhering, 102g. Voussoir, 1 fragment, keying, *opus signinum* adhering, 166g.

#### F3 (lower)

*Finds no* 11 Box flue-tile, 3 fragments, with keying, *opus signinum* adhering, 583g. Brick, 2 fragments, 1,640g. Brick, 1 fragment, *opus signinum* adhering, 896g. Brick, 2 fragments, burnt, 655g.

#### F5

*Finds no 15* Box flue-tile, 1 fragment, curved cutaway vent, *opus signinum* adhering, 75g.

#### 6.6 Miscellaneous finds

by Chris Lister

L4 (over F2) Finds no 9 Opus signinum, 1 fragment, 143g. Wall-plaster, 3 fragments, red over white, 43g.

#### L4

*Finds no 19* Mortar, 2 fragments, moulded, 1,225g. *Opus signinum*, 3 fragments, 1,021g. *Tessera*, 1 cube, unusual fabric, 23g. *Tessera*, 8 cubes, white mortar adhering, 118g. *Tessera*, 2 cubes, cut from box flue-tile with keying on base, 23g. Wall-plaster, 2 fragments, white painted, 88g. Wall-plaster, 6 fragments, cream coloured, 402g. Wall-plaster, 1 fragment, thin black line above thick red band over white, square impression in mortar on reverse, 207g. Wall-plaster, 1 fragment, yellow and red line on cream background, 41g.

#### F1 (upper)

*Finds no 5 Opus signinum*, 3 fragments, 162g. Wall-plaster, 1 fragment, white painted, 14g.

#### F1 (middle)

Finds no 7 Peg-tile, 2 fragments, 101g.

#### F1 (lower)

Finds no 8 Tessera, 1 cube, 19g.

#### F3 (upper)

Finds no 10 Septaria, 1 fragment, 215g. Wall-plaster 1 fragment, curved red over white, 41g. Wall-plaster, 1 fragment, traces of yellow, 41g.

F3 (lower)

Finds no 11

Wall-plaster, 1 fragment, white painted over 2 layers of opus signinum, 271g.

F9

Finds no 18

Post-medieval brick, 1 specimen, mortar adhering, 2,052g.

#### 7 Discussion

The investigations at East Hill House produced further evidence of Roman Colchester. Roman horizons were encountered in each of the three trenches with evidence for two buildings, both of which were probably town-houses.

T1 provided perhaps the most interesting features. Situated within a 20th-century extension at the west end of the mid 18th-century house, excavation was a challenge in itself. The upper contexts (L1-L3) of T1 were all associated with later phases of East Hill House, with L1 (being filled with fragments of flowerpots) most probably relating to the gardens before the extension. Evidence for the extension was revealed in the compacted dump of construction material L2. Although this may have been contemporary with the original East Hill House, it was located closer to the extension, which suggests association with the latter. L3, which survived only thinly, must represent accumulated garden soil from the medieval period which was disturbed during the building of East Hill House.

The large pit F1, with its apparent depth and steeply-sloping sides, could feasibly be interpreted as a well. The 13th-century pottery sherds recovered from the lower part of the excavated feature could indicate an association with the nine houses demolished to make way for the construction of East Hill House c 1745 (Morant 1746, II, 15; *VCH* **9**, 151). As excavated, the fill of F1 was quite homogeneous with no visible tip lines. This, along with the 17th- to 18th-century sherds found higher in the fill, suggests the back-filling of the feature at around the same time as the construction of East Hill House. If this is not the case and the feature is associated with East Hill House itself, it could still be interpreted as a well, based on its proximity to the buildings (although if this is the case it was probably for the use of the horses in the coach-house rather than the occupants of the house).

Little can be said about the robber trenches F3 and F8 in relation to their dating, as no non-Roman finds were recovered from them, but it is likely that they follow the pattern of medieval robbing seen elsewhere in Colchester. What can be said is that the two robber trenches clearly represent wall lines which formed part of a room in Building 218 incorporating a hypocaust (F2). As the demolition debris L4 sealed the hypocaust, it is clear that this was the final phase in this building's existence. However, the excavation of the robber trench F3 showed an earlier phase; the *opus signinum* wall foundations F5 and F6 indicate an earlier building on the same alignment. The impressions of what appear to be an upright box flue-tile on the surface of F5 suggests that this earlier building also had a hypocaust. Pottery associated with F5 suggests a 3rd-century date for the demolition of the earlier building.

This earlier building included two rooms which were probably decorated with painted wall-plaster. A very thin and poorly preserved layer of wall-plaster fragments covered the floors of the two rooms with larger fragments at the base of F3. The wall-plaster was mainly of a white colour with traces of red and yellow. Similar fragments were recovered from demolition debris L4 above the hypocaust sub-floor.

T2 was relocated, which meant that the excavation had to be 500mm deeper to reach the Roman deposits. This caused problems later on. The brick surfaces of F4 and the associated drainage features (Phase 1) made it difficult to interpret T2. They clearly belong to the same period as the coach-house, itself undated to anything more specific than pre-1815 (Derrick 2009), and can in fact be seen on the 1876 Ordnance Survey map. The concrete drainage gully and the map evidence suggest

that the southern brick floor was part of a stable and the softer brick floor to the north was part of a tack room.

Evidence of Roman activity beneath these features was further complicated by the presence of a large post-medieval pit. This made it difficult to interpret the two Roman layers at the base of the trench. L9 appeared to be Roman demolition debris, although less concentrated than L4 in T1 and T3. The start of a slight dip at the eastern edge of this layer could be indicative of a robber trench, but this does not seem very likely. Beneath L9 was what appeared to be redeposited natural sands and gravel. This was very dirty and contained flecks of charcoal. It is possible that this was deposited as a consolidation layer over earlier features. To the north of the trench, the base (where not truncated by F4 or F7) was a layer of pale sandy clay (L11). Although devoid of finds, this did not resemble natural, but looked more like the remains of clay-block walls. However, only a small part of this context was exposed and excavated and so interpretation is problematic.

In T2, despite some intrusive modern and post-medieval activity, Roman archaeology did survive at a depth which is more than likely to be disturbed by development.

T3 provided evidence for a second Roman building on the site (Building 219). The only one of the three trenches located within the scheduled ancient monument, it was positioned to locate the tessellated pavement observed in 1951 (Hull 1958, 207). The tessellated pavement was successfully located 1.7m below modern ground-level at 24m AOD, with a probable robber trench following the line of a wall foundation next to it. This was within 100mm of the level of the top of the hypocaust sub-floor in T1, some 40m to the north-east and within 150mm of the of the level of the Roman layers in T2 to the north-west. Therefore, it would appear that the evaluated area was, in Roman times, relatively level, with perhaps a slight rise to the north in T1 indicated by what would have been the full height of the hypocaust. The levelling may have been achieved by terracing. Work carried out in conjunction with the building of the Visual Arts Facility included trial-trenching through the D-shaped sunken garden of East Hill House (CAT Report 477 forthcoming; VAF trenches B, C, D and E on Fig 1). Here, in VAF trench D, Roman archaeology was encountered at a depth of approximately 22.7m AOD, 1.3m below the level of archaeology in T3. Clearly some form of terracing was employed here in the Roman period, with its edge probably located beneath the driveway to the south of T3.

No evidence of any north-south aligned street dividing Insulas 31 and 32 was encountered during the evaluation. The probable course of such a street would still seem to have been between houses IV and V of the 1958 excavation and house III from the 1955 excavation (Richardson 1961, 7-36), projecting north to join the northsouth street dividing Insulas 23 and 24. The presence of a post-medieval gravel layer in a trench dug during the 2003 evaluation at the former bus station (CAT Report 305) does not necessarily preclude this projection.

#### 8 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by CAT at 12 Lexden Road, Colchester, Essex, but will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museums under accession code COLIM 2009.22.

#### 9 Acknowledgements

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## 11 Glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
CBC	Colchester Borough Council
CBM	Ceramic Building Material, Roman
CIMS	Colchester and Ipswich Museums
context	on an excavation site, a specific location (especially of finds)
EHER	Essex Historic Environment Record, maintained by Essex County Council
feature	something excavated, ie a wall, a floor, a pit, a ditch, etc
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
medieval	period from AD 1066 to <i>c</i> AD 1500
modern	period from <i>c</i> AD 1800 to the present
NGR	National Grid Reference
natural	geological deposit undisturbed by human activity
post-medieval	after <i>c</i> AD 1500 to <i>c</i> AD 1800
residual	an earlier find in a later context, eg a Roman coin in a Victorian pit
UAD	Urban Archaeological Database held by CIMS

## 12 Context list

Context	Trench	Description	Associated finds	Context date
F1	T1	Large, deep pit (not fully excavated)	Animal bone, CBM, clay tobacco- pipe, iron, peg-tile, pot counter, pottery, <i>opus signinum</i> , <i>tesserae</i> , wall-plaster	post- medieval
F2	T1	<i>Opus signinum</i> floor	-	Roman
F3	T1	Robber trench	Animal bone, CBM, iron, pot counter, pottery, septaria, wall- plaster	?medieval
F4	T2	Brick floor	-	modern
F5	T1	Wall foundation remains	Animal bone, CBM, pottery	Roman
F6	T1	<i>Opus signinum</i> foundation (not excavated)	-	Roman
F7	T2	Pit (not fully excavated)	Pottery	post- medieval
F8	T1	Robber trench (not excavated)	-	?medieval

F9	Т3	Pit	Post-Roman brick, peg-tile, pottery	post- medieval
F10	Т3	Pit (not excavated)	pollery	
FIU	15	Fit (not excavated)	-	post-
=	To	<b>—</b>		medieval
F11	Т3	Tessellated pavement	-	Roman
F12	Т3	Possible robber trench	-	?medieval
L1	T1, T3	Topsoil	Animal bone, CBM, clay tobacco-	19th-20th
			pipe, opus signinum, pot counter,	centuries
			pottery, wall-plaster	
L2	T1	Construction dump	-	post-
				medieval
L3	T1, T3	Soil accumulation	Animal bone, CBM	post-
	,			medieval
L4	T1, T3	Demolition debris	Animal bone, CBM, mortar, opus	Roman
			signinum, pottery, tesserae, wall-	
			plaster	
L5	T2, T3	Imported topsoil	-	modern
L6	T1	Demolition debris	-	Roman
L7	T1	Occupation surface	Charcoal flecking	Roman
		(not excavated)		
L8	T2, T3	Crush	-	modern
L9	T2	Demolition debris	CBM, pottery	Roman
L10	T2	Redeposited	-	Roman
		natural		
L11	T2	Clay floor/clay wall	-	Roman
		(demolition		
		material?)		

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CAT Report 520: An archaeological evaluation at East Hill House, Colchester, Essex: April-June 2009

## Appendix 1

## Catalogue of the faunal remains

F/L Fin No. No.	d Date/type	Total Qty	Wt (g)	Species	Sp. Qty	Prox F	Dist F	Age	Bone	Butchery	zone	Max length	Bone frag type	Comments	Z1	Z2	Z3	Z4	Z5	Z6	<b>Z</b> 7	28 Fresl ess	n Side
L1 1	modern topsoil	3		med mammal	1				rib	chopped								1					
			1.9	med mammal	1				rib										1				
			3.8	Ovis	1	4		-	ulna						1	1	4	4					right
L1 2	modern topsoil	5	26.5		1	f		a a	radius	cut marks, pos	5, 2			tooth puncture mark	1	1	1	1	1	1		fresh	left
	modern topson	5	20.5	OVIS	'	1		a	Taulus	gnawed	5, 2			tooth puncture mark	1	1	1	1	1	1		litesii	leit
			20.5	Bos	1	f	f	а	1st phalanx	cut mark, chopped	6				1		1		1		1		lef t
				Anatinae	1	f	f	u l	femur		Ū			Mallard?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	left
				Irg mammal	1		1		unidentified	slightly burnt		10-12	diaphy sis		·	†.	† –				· +	fresh	1011
				Irg mammal	1				unidentified	cut marks		8-10	diaphy sis									fresh	
L3 6	post-med	1		Ovis	1	f	u	i	metacarpal			0.0			1	1	1	1	1	1			lef t
	accumulation		0.0		·		Ĩ	,	motuouipu						l .	· ·	1 ·	1.	•				
L3 9	post-med accumulation	4	21.1	Sus	1				humerus	cut/chop marks	5						1	1	1	1			right
			16.9	Irg mammal	1				rib					very fresh indeed!								fresh	
			3	Ovis	1	u	u	f	metacarpal														
			0.9	Aves	1				unidentif ied					row of spines up shaft?									
L4 19	Roman demo debris	8	69.3	Bos	1	u		j	femur								1	1					right
			65.3	Bos	1	f		j-a	radius						1	1							right
				Bos	1		u	i	metapodial										1	1			
			38.3		1			a	maxilla					p3, p4									
				unidentif ed	2				unidentif ed				axial	F - 7 F								not	
			2.6	unidentif ed	1				unidentif ed				appendicular cancellous									not	
				Aves	1				unidentified					prob scapula or clavicula									
F1 5	large deep post-med pit	2		Irg mammal	1				rib	cut marks											1		
	preter p.i		23.2	Bos	1				scapula	cut marks						1							
F1 7	large deep post-med pit	10		lrg mammal	1				unidentified				axial	prob pelv is								not	
			23.8	Irg mammal	1				unidentif ied										1	1		not	
				Sus	1				metacarpal V	cut marks	3, 4				1	1	1	1	1	1	1		lef t
			6.4		3				rib	cut marks	3,4,5,6				1	1	1	1	1	1			
				Gallus gallus	1				tarso-metatars		0, 1,0,0				·	· ·	1	1	1	1	1		lef t
				domesticus					us														
			20.5	Irg mammal	1				unidentif ied			6-8	diaphy sis									not	
			10.9	Irg mammal	1				unidentif ied			6-8	diaphy sis									not	
			6.1	unidentif ied	1				unidentif ied	burnt			appendicular cancellous										
F3 10	mediev al robber trench	5	27.8	Bos	1				pelv is														
			28.8	Ovis	1			а	mandible					p2/3/4, m1/2- in wear			1						right
				Irg mammal	1				rib									1	1	1	1		Ť
				med mammal	1				vertebrae (lu)									1					
			1	Aves	1				clavicula								1						
F3 11	mediev al robber trench	5	30.9	lrg mammal	2				rib	cut marks										1	1		
			25.3	med mammal	2				v ertebrae (cerv,thor)					one very well preserved	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
				Gallus gallus domesticus	1	1			coracoid						1	1	1	1	1	1	1		lef t
F5 15	Roman wall remains	1		med mammal	1	1			humerus								1					not	

CAT Report 520: An archaeological evaluation at East Hill House, Colchester, Essex: April-June 2009

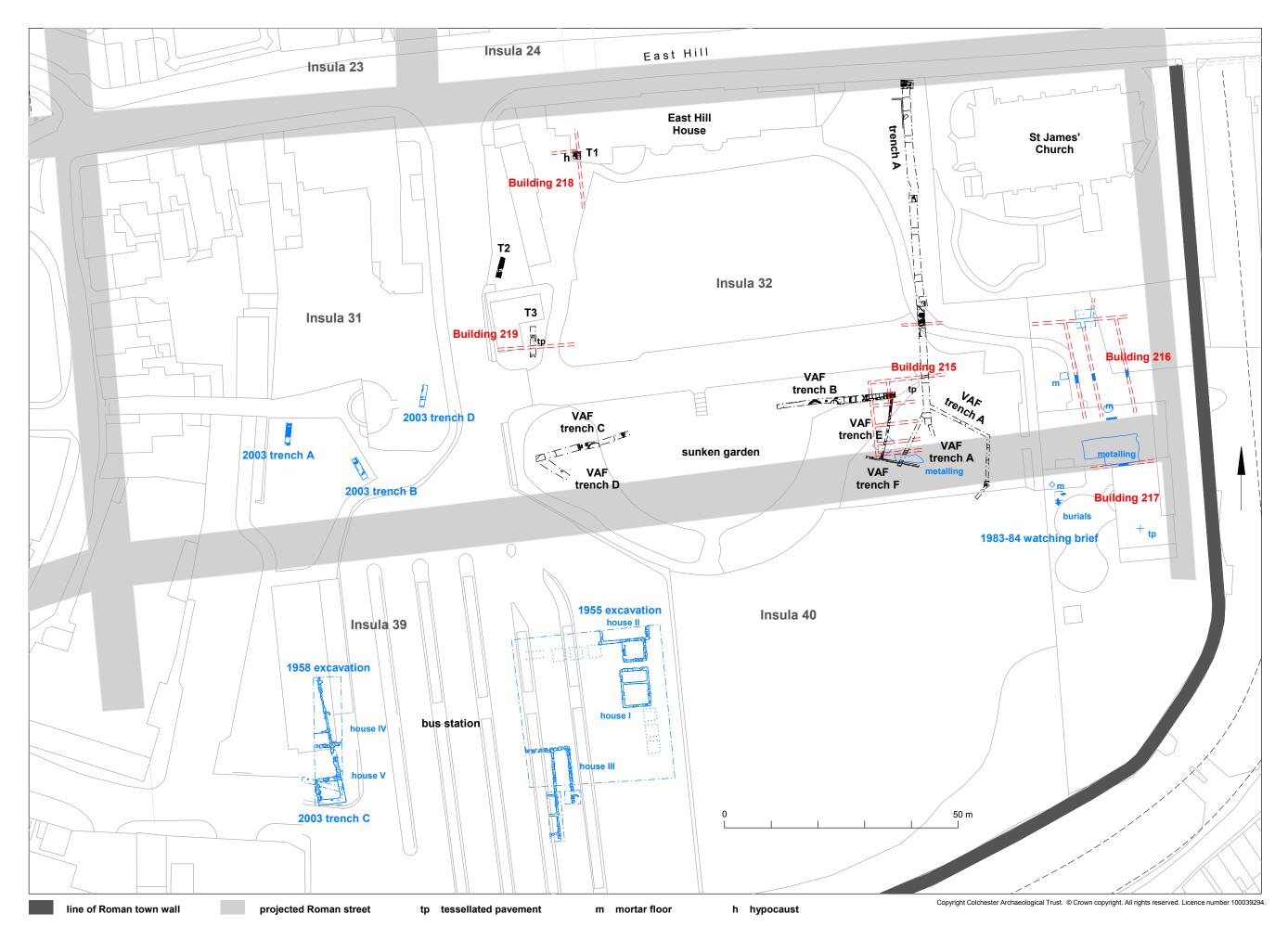


Fig 1 Insulas 31/32 and Insulas 39/40, showing the location of the 2009 trial-trenches in the archaeological context of the area.

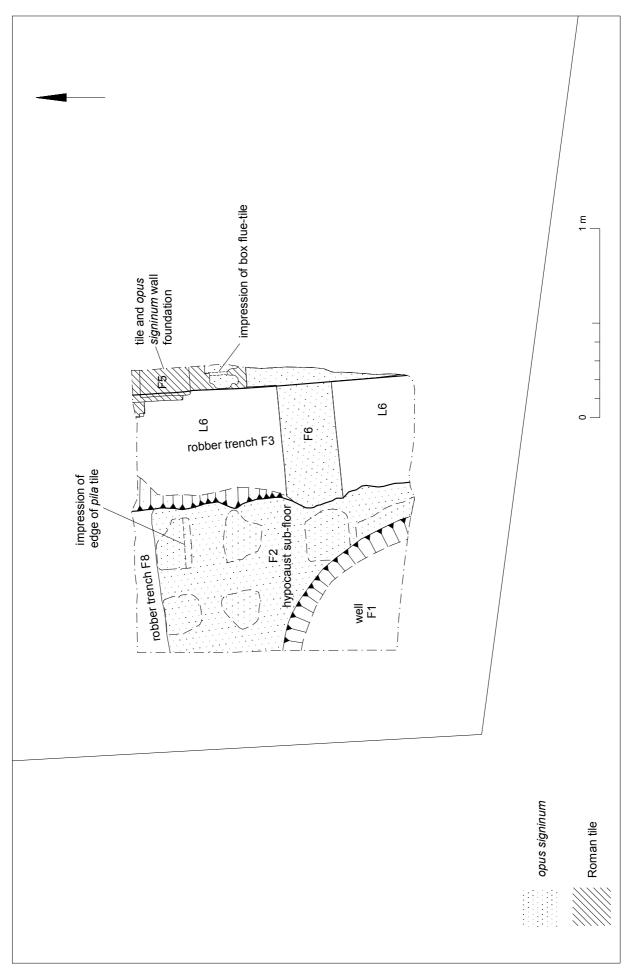
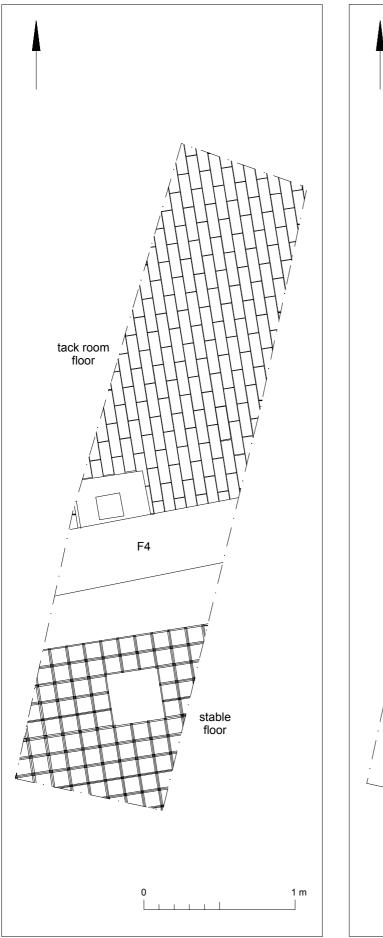
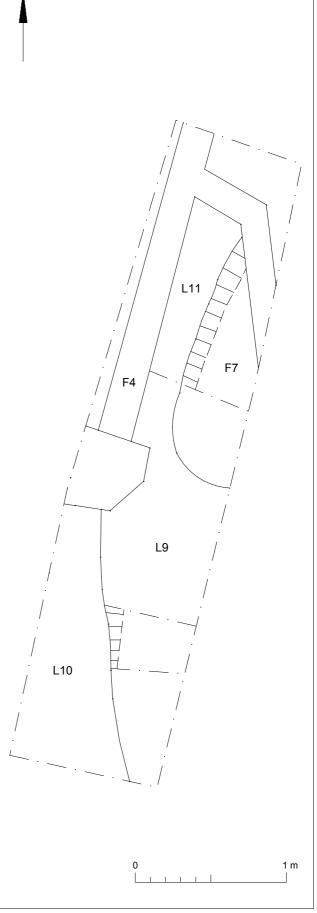


Fig 2 T1: results.





Phase 1 Fig 3 T2: results.

Phase 2

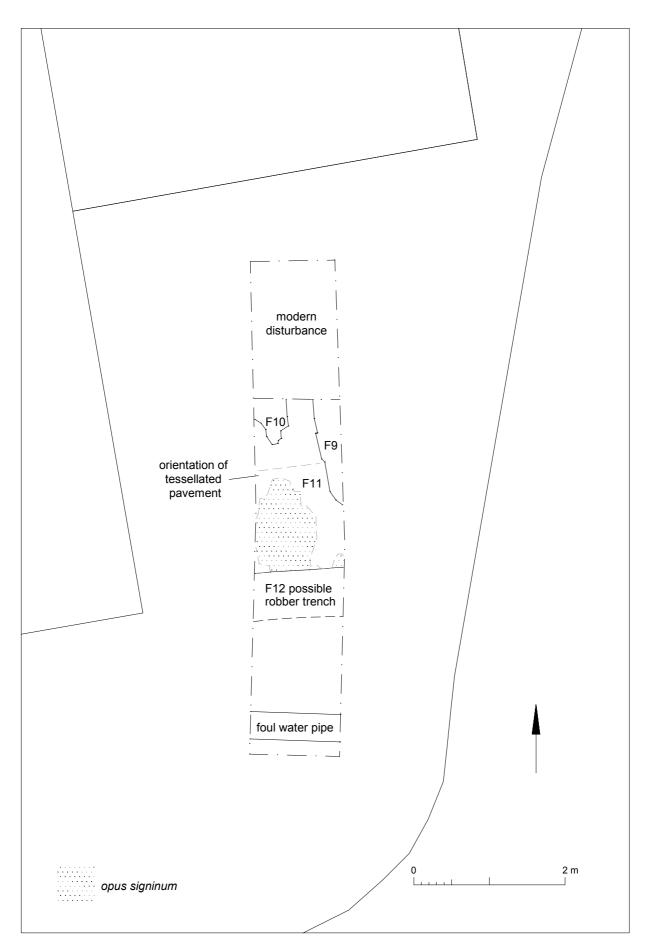
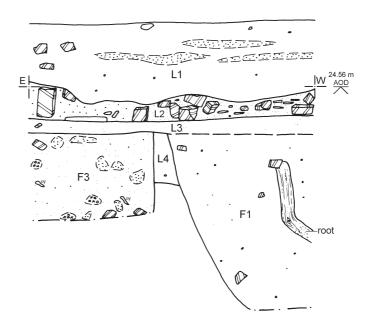
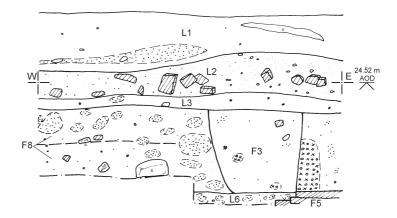


Fig 4 T3: results.







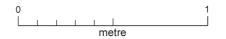
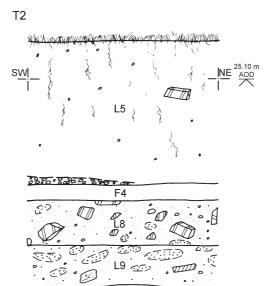
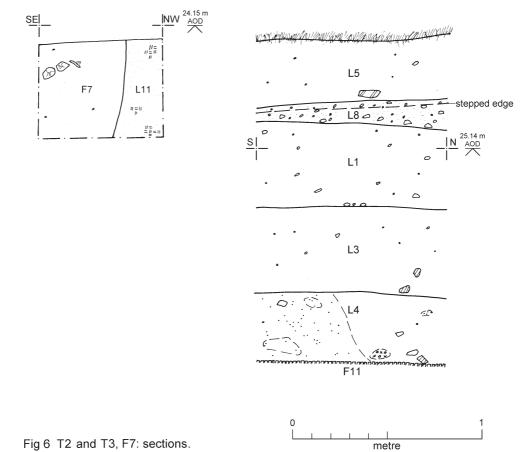


Fig 5 T1: sections.



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## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

## Summary sheet

Site address: East Hill House, 7	78 High Street, Colchester, Essex					
Parish: Colchester	District: Colchester					
<b>NGR:</b> TM 00852 25227 (c)	<i>Site codes:</i> CAT project code - 09/3c Museum accession code - COLIM 2009.22					
<i>Type of work:</i> Evaluation	<i>Site director/group:</i> Colchester Archaeological Trust					
<i>Date of work:</i> April-June 2009	<i>Size of area investigated:</i> Approximately 11.25m <sup>2</sup>					
<i>Curating museum:</i> Colchester and Ipswich Museums	<i>Funding source:</i> Developer					
Further seasons anticipated? Possibly	<i>Related UAD nos:</i> 270, 307, 321, 3033, 3069, 3070					
Final report: CAT Re	port 520 and summary in EAH					
Periods represented: Roman,	medieval, post-medieval					
Summary of fieldwork results: The site lies in Insula 31/32 of the Roman town. Prior to the refurbishment of East Hill House as a hotel and the construction of retail and residential units to the west of this, three trial-trenches were excavated - two by machine and one by hand - inside East Hill House and in its grounds. The trenches revealed parts of two Roman buildings, presumably town-houses, one of which had a hypocaust and the other at least one area of tessellated pavement.						
Previous summaries/reports: C	AT Reports 305, 477					
<i>Keywords:</i> Roman, hypocaust, tessellated pavement	Significance: *					
<i>Author of summary:</i> Chris Lister	<i>Date of summary:</i> April 2010					